Production of oranges

†11. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to promote the production of oranges across the country;

(b) whether the oranges produced in the country are exported to other countries; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal to patent the oranges produced in Darjeeling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Scheme on (i) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North - Eastern State (TMNE) including Sikkim since 2001-2002 which was extended to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the year 2003-04 and (ii) the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the remaining States and Union Territories from 2005-06, for the holistic development of horticulture. Bringing more area under cultivation of horticulture crops including orange cultivation through area expansion is one of the main components under both the schemes. Under both the schemes, for the cultivation of oranges, assistance is being provided to the cultivators @ 75% of cost of cultivation of Rs. 30,000/- per ha subject to a maximum of Rs. 22,500/- per ha limited to 4 ha per beneficiary, over a period of three years.

(b) Yes, Sir. India has been exporting small quantities of oranges to different countries. During 2006-07, India has exported 30110 Metric Tonnes of oranges amounting to Rs. 2914.00 lakhs.

(c) No, Sir.

Milk obtained by use of hormone injections

†12. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information has been received that hormone injections are given to cattle to obtain more milk from them in the country;

(b) if so, the names of States from where such information has been received; and

(c) the extent to which the milk obtained by use of these hormone injections is harmful to health and their ill effect on the health of the cattle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Department has not received any information from the State Governments regarding administration of hormone injections to cattle to obtain more milk.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) As per information received from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) there is no scientific report available indicating ill-effects of hormone induced milk on health. The hormone said to be used (oxytocin) is a peptide hormone naturally produced in the hypothalamus and released from posterior pituitary gland which is responsible for normal delivery and let down of milk. Since half life of oxytocin varies from 3 to 12 minutes and it gets rapidly metabolized into amino acids by peptide digesting enzymes in gastrointestinal track it is not expected to produce any ill effects on animal health.

Production and MSP given to paddy

13. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand from various State Governments to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy equivalent to wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the MSP given to paddy and wheat during the last three years; and

(e) the production of paddy and wheat, area-wise compared to other States during the last three years, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A number of State Governments including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, etc. for 2008-09 season had sought Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Paddy equivalent to or higher than the MSP of Wheat.

(d) Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy and wheat since 2005-06 is indicated in the Table below:

(Rs. per Quintal)

Year	Paddy MSP		Bonus	Wheat MSP	Bonus
	Common	Grade A			
2005-06	570	600	—	650	50
2006-07	580	610	40*	750	100
2007-08	645	675	100	1000	—
2008-09	850	880	50	—	—

*Bonus was payable on procurement between 1.10.2006 to 31.03.2007. In case of Bihar and Kerala, bonus was extended upto 31.5.2007 and in case of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, bonus was extended upto 30.9.2007.